

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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R 091610Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0985

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 4847

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAU, IS, LI

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS DISCUSSES OAU MEETINGS IN  
MAURITIUS

REF: MONROVIA 4805

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS ON JULY 8 GAVE ME RUNDOWN ON ASPECTS OF OAU MEETING AT MAURITIUS OF INTEREST. POINTS COVERED INCLUDED U.S. VETO OF ANGOLAN APPLICATION FOR UN MEMBERSHIP, LIBERIAN RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAELI AGRESSION ON UGANDA, AND POSSIBLE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF OAU'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. DENNIS' LEADERSHIP ROLE ON THE CONDEMNATION-OF-ISRAELI-AGGRESSION RESOLUTION SHOWS RATHER UNQUESTIONING DEVOTION TO CONCEPT OF AFRICAN CONSENSUS. WE WILL HAVE TO WORK HARDER TO BRING HIM TO SEE THAT TURNING A BLIND EYE TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IN PURSUIT OF SUCH A CONSENSUS IS SELF-DEFEATING. WE WILL CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESPONSIBILITY ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS ON PART OF GOL AND CONTINUED PROGRESS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE JULY 8 TO DISCUSS ANOTHER MATTER AND USED OCCASION TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE TO  
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INFORM ME ABOUT OAU MEETINGS IN MAURITIUS. IT TURNED OUT THAT DIS-

CUSSION TOUCHED ONLY ON FOLLOWING TOPICS.

### 3. U.S. VETO OF ANGOLAN APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO UN

STARTING WITH SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO U.S., DENNIS NOTED U.S. VETO HAD BEEN DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY, ALLUDING TO ARGUMENTATION THAT HAD BEEN MADE. I POINTED OUT THAT CONFRONTATION IN SECURITY COUNCIL ON THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN TOTALLY UNNECESSARY, SINCE ISSUE COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN SETTLED DURING UNGA ANYWAY. USG WAS PLEASED, HOWEVER, THAT AFRICAN DELEGATIONS HAD WORKED FOR DEFERRAL. DENNIS SAID THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN "BROADLY INFORMED". BUT DISCUSSIONS AT OAU HAD CONFIRMED WHAT I HAD SAID. DENNIS ADMITTED TO PARTICIPATION IN AUTHORSHIP OF RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT IN MAURITIUS, AND NOTED THAT USG PROBABLY HAD NOT LIKED REFERENCE TO "ANACHRONISTIC IMPERIALISM." HE HAD NOT FELT THAT HE COULD MOVE TO STRIKE THAT TERM. FOR OTHERS WOULD HAVE SAID, "LOOK AT HIM, THE STOOGES". (THIS IS A REFERENCE TO HIS HAVING BEEN CALLED "AN AMERICAN STOOGES" AT JANUARY 1975 MEETING IN KINSHASA OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE. HE WAS DEEPLY HURT AND RANKLED BY EPITHET AND FREQUENTLY ALLUDES TO IT.)

### 4. CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI-AGGRESSION IN UGANDA

DENNIS SAID HE "DID REFLECT VIEW OF GROUP CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR VIOLATING SOVEREIGNTY OF UGANDA". A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS HAD DISCUSSED MATTER IN GENERALLY SIMILAR TERMS. ALL HAD FEELING SITUATION AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT "WAS GOING TO WORK IT-SELF OUT". THEY HAD LOOKED TO HIM TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD "TONED DOWN" THE LANGUAGE, FOR EXAMPLE, ELIMINATING "SUGGESTIONS OF CONSPIRACY" AND MAKING OTHER LANGUAGE LESS CONTROVERSIAL (BY TONING DOWN REFERENCES TO CHAPTER 7 OF UN CHARTER). IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, DENNIS SAID KENYANS HAD NOT ONLY SUPPORTED RESOLUTION, BUT HAD JOINED IN WILD HANDCLAPPING WHEN CONSENSUS BEHIND RESOLUTION WAS ANNOUNCED. I TOLD DENNIS THAT USG JUST COULD NOT ACCEPT PREMISE UPON WHICH RESOLUTION HAD BEEN BASED. THERE HAD BEEN NO INDICATION OF A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TO HOSTAGE SITUATION. NOR WAS THERE ANY SIGN THAT AMIN HAD BEEN IMPARTIAL. HE HAD EMBRACED TERRORISTS ON THEIR ARRIVAL, ALLOWED THEIR REINFORCEMENT AND USED HIS OWN TROOPS TO GUARD HOSTAGES WHILE TERRORISTS SLEPT. MOREOVER, HE HAD AMPLY SHOWN THAT HUMAN LIFE

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MEANS NOTHING TO HIM, HAVING BEEN SEEN TO SLAUGHTER OF MANY OF HIS OWN PEOPLE, AND COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO BALK AT SLAUGHTERING OTHERS. DENNIS RESPONDED ONLY THAT HE RESPECTED MY ANALYSIS AS HE KNEW I WOULD RESPECT HIS. IN HIGHLY EMOTIONAL TERMS HE REFERRED TO "FLAGRANT DISRESPECT FOR AFRICAN SOVEREIGNTY". HE CONJURED UP POSSIBILITY THAT HIJACKERS WITH 15 MINUTES SUPPLY OF FUEL MIGHT LAND AT ROBERTS FIELD, AND REFUSED TO BE DEFLECTED BY MY POINTING OUT THAT, IN SUCH A CASE, GOL WOULD SURROUND AIRPLANE, TAKE

CHARGE AND CONTROL HIJACKERS. HE SAID, "WE JUST DON'T WANT TO BE TOLD."

(FYI INITIAL INDICATIONS HERE ARE THAT GOL AND PARTICULARLY PRESIDENT TOLBERT WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE AND MUCH ANNOYED BY LIBERIAN SPONSORSHIP OF RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAELI AGGRESSION ON UGANDA. END FYI)

5. EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

DENNIS PROFESSED TO HAVE NO INFORMATION ON SUCH A MEETING. HE PRESUMED, HOWEVER, THAT IF ONE WERE HELD IT WOULD BE IN ADDIS.

6. ON DENNIS' RETURN TRIP TO MONROVIA HE HAD A STOP-OVER IN ENTEBBE. HE ASKED TO BE ABLE TO LOOK OVER SCENE OF ACTION, AND WAS TAKEN OVER GROUND. HE SAW AIR FRANCE PLANE, WHICH APPEARED UNDAMAGED. HE SAW NO GUARDS, "BUT THERE WERE LOTS OF GUARDS NEAR ME".

7. COMMENT: I MADE IT CLEAR, AND AM CONFIDENT DENNIS UNDERSTOOD, THAT WE ARE FOLLOWING CLOSELY LIBERIAN POSITIONS AT SUCH MEETINGS AS THOSE AT PORT LOUIS, PARTICULARLY ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US. I NOTED THAT ON SUCH ISSUES (PUERTO RICO, KOREA, PANAMA) LITTLE APPARENTLY HAD BEEN SAID MAINLY BECAUSE OTHER DIVISIVE ISSUES HAD HELD CENTER OF ATTENTION. AS THERE CLEARLY HAD BEEN SO MUCH EMOTION PREVALENT AT OAU MEETINGS AND AS PRESIDENT TOLBERT APPARENTLY HAS ALREADY INDICATED HIS OWN DISPLEASURE AT DENNIS' ACTION ON ANTI-ISRAELI RESOLUTION, I THOUGHT IT ADVISABLE NOT TO MAKE, AT THIS TIME, TOO MUCH OF A POINT ABOUT ILLOGIC OF LIBERIA'S POSITION ON ENTEBBE RAID AND, MORE PARTICULARLY, ABOUT LIBERIA'S TAKING THE LEAD ON THAT RESOLUTION. BUT DENNIS' DOING SO SHOWS WE WILL HAVE TO WORK ON HIM. IT IS ONE THING TO FEEL COMPELLED TO JOIN AN AFRICAN CONSENSUS ON ISSUES AS TO WHICH THERE IS A GENUINE AFRICAN INTEREST AND FOR US TO BE UNDERSTANDING OF  
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THAT FEELING. IT IS QUITE ANOTHER TO JOIN, INDEED TO LEAD, A CONSENSUS THAT TURNS A BLIND EYE TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND EXPECT U.S. PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT TO BE UNDERSTANDING OF THAT. AS OCCASIONS ARISE WE WILL CONTINUE TO POINT OUT RELATION OF RESPONSIBILITY ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS ON PART OF GOL AND CONTINUED PROGRESS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.  
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